

Message Text

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41

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /063 W

----- 091756

P R 021600Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2205

INFO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR PROP GY CU AO

SUBJ: GUYANA MEDIA GIVES SUPPORT TO MPLA AND CUBA

REF: MA. GEORGETOWN 2219, B. 2207, C. 2117

SUMMARY: NUMEROUS PRO-MPLA AND CUBA ARTICLES
HAVE APPEARED IN BOTH GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED AND
OPPOSITION MPSCOW-LINE PPP NEWSPAPERS FOR PAST
FEW WEEKS. ACCOMPANYING THESE ARE ARTICLES HOSTILE
TO THE U.S. AND OUR POSITION ON THE ANGOLAN ISSUE.
ARTICLES APPEAR TO REPRESENT THE UNOFFICIAL POSITION
OF THE GOG. END SUMMARY

2. IN ADDITION TO THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLES MENTIONED
IN REFTELS A AND B, BOTH THE GOVT OWNED DAILY NEWSPAPER,
GUYANA CHRONICLE, AND THE OPPOSITION PPP DAILY SHEET,
THE MIRROR, HAVE GIVEN EXTENSIVE SPACE TO BOTH PRO-MPLA
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AND PRO-CUBAN ARTICLES. SEVERAL ARTICLES RANGING UP

TO ENTIRE FRONT AND CENTER PAGES PRAISED THE MPLA AND CUBA WITH TITLES STATING: QUOTE CUBA WILLING TO DIE FOR AFRICAN BROTHERS IN ANGOLA UNQUOTE, QUOTE GUYANA BLASTS SOUTH AFRICA OVER ANGOLA UNQUOTE, QUOTE MERCENARIES JOIN UP IN U.S. UNQUOTE, QUOTE CASTRO TELLS OF ELABORATE CIA PLOTS TO MURDER HIM UNQUOTE, QUOTE CUBA RECONSTRUCTS AFTER SACRIFICE UNQUOTE, AND QUOTE CUBA'S PLEDGE: GUYANA CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON US UNQUOTE. SEVERAL OTHER INVARIABLY FAVORABLE ARTICLES COVER CUBAN DAILY LIFE. THERE WERE ALSO SEPARATE SYMPATHETIC INTERVIEWS WITH THE NEW CUBAN AMBASSADOR TO GUYANA AND HIS WIFE, AND EXTENSIVE DAILY COVERAGE OF THE FIRST CONGRESS OF THE CUBAN COMMUNIST PARTY.

3. THE FIRST CONGRESS OF THE CUBAN COMMUNIST PARTY WAS ATTENDED BY SIX GUYANESE REPRESENTING BOTH PPP AND PNC (SEE REFTEL C), AND WAS COVERED BY GUYANA'S CHIEF POLITICAL REPORTER MOHAMED HAMALUDIN. HAMALUDIN REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED CUBA-GUYANA BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP, SIMILARITIES IN DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS, COMMON MARXIST-LENINIST IDEOLOGY AND SPECIFIED FIELDS IN WHICH GUYANA COULD LEARN FROM CUBA.

4. THE NEWSPAPERS HAVE ALSO CONDEMNED BOTH SOUTH AFRICAN AND AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR THE FNL-UNITA FORCES IN ANGOLA; THE DEC 23 MIRROR USED ITS ENTIRE BACK PAGE TO PRINT AN ARTICLE BASED ON ONE WHICH HAD APPEARED IN THE N.Y. TIMES, ENTITLED QUOTE FNL LEADER A CIA AGENT FOR THE PAST 10 YEARS UNQUOTE. ACCOMPANYING THE ARTICLE WAS A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE TWO SOUTH AFRICANS REPORTEDLY CAPTURED BY THE MPLA IN ANGOLA. YET, THE HARDEST HITTING ARTICLE WAS A FULL PAGE REPORT FROM THE GEMINI NEWS AGENCY IN THE DEC 29 CHRONICLE ENTITLED QUOTE MERCENARIES JOIN UP IN U.S. UNQUOTE WITH A PHOTOGRAPH OF U.S. AMBASSADOR DANIEL MOYNIHAN INSERTED IN THE ARTICLE. THE ARTICLE CALLED THE ANGOLAN DISPUTE AFRICA'S VIETNAM AND STATED THAT SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER'S INTEREST IN ANGOLA WAS A QUOTE LITMUS TEST FOR HIS FALTERING DETENTE POLICY UNQUOTE. THE ARTICLE WENT ON TO DESCRIBE ALLEGED ATTEMPTS BY U.S. BASED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY TO RECRUIT MERCENARIES TO FIGHT IN ANGOLA.

5. COMMENT: WITH THE CONTINUED STRENGTHENING OF ALREADY CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN CUBA AND GUYANA, THE PRO-CUBA ARTICLES WERE GENERALLY EXPECTED. SIMILAR EFFUSIVELY PRASISING ARTICLES ON THE PRC STILL APPEAR IN THE CHRONICLE, BUT HAVE RECENTLY BEEN LESS

FREQUENT AS CUBA HAS BEEN EMPHASIZED. HOWEVER, GUYANA HAS NOT YET OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED THE MPLA OR OFFICIALLY SUPPORTED CUBAN INTERVENTION IN THE CONFLICT. ALL SIGNIFICANT MEDIA IN GUYANA OTHER THAN THE MIRROR AND ONE RADIO STATION ARE OWNED BY THE GOVERNMENT, (THE NON-GOVT RADIO STATION CLOSELY FOLLOWS GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE). WRITERS AND EDITORS USUALLY CHECK COVERAGE AND WORDING ON SENSITIVE MATTERS WITH GOVT OFFICIALS BEFORE PRINTING. THUS, POLITICAL ARTICLES APPEARING IN THE DAILY PRESS USUALLY REPRESENT THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON ISSUES. THEREFORE THE VIEWS ON CUBA AND ANGOLA BEING EXPRESSED IN THE PRESS MAY WELL BE DESIGNED TO PREPARE GROUND FOR ENUNCIATION BY THE GOG OF ITS OFFICIALA POSITION NOT TOO MANY DAYS FROM NOW.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, LIBERATION FRONTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GEORGE00002
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: I
Film Number: D760001-0529
From: GEORGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760190/aaaadchq.tel
Line Count: 132
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 JAN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 JAN 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <13 APR 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GUYANA MEDIA GIVES SUPPORT TO MPLA AND CUBA
TAGS: PFOR, PROP, GY, CU, AO, US, MPLA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006